



Minutes No:
2023/60

Necton Parish Council

Minutes Parish Council Meeting held

Monday 12th June 2023 at 7.00 pm held at Necton Rural Community Centre

Parish Councillors (6) present:

Councillors Jean Bass Genine Curtis, Joe Sisto, Fraser Bateman, Sue Catlin, and Thirza Hicks

Additional attendees:

Justine Luckhurst- Parish Clerk,
Nigel Wilkin – Breckland District Councillor
Mark Kiddle-Morris- NCC Councillor
Members of the public – 3

Date: Monday 12th June 2023

Time: 7.00 pm

Place: Necton Rural Community Centre

1.To receive apologies for absence

Apologies received from Councillors Spain and Jennings

2.To receive any declarations of interest from Members & consider requests for dispensation

Members are invited to declare disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests in items on the agenda as required by the Necton Parish Council Code of Conduct for Members and by the Localism Act 2011.

None received

3.To approve minutes of Council meeting of 15th May 2023

Proposed by Chair Bass, seconded by Councillor Catlin and agreed unanimously

4.Adjournment for public participation (10 mins)

This provides an opportunity for members of the public to raise questions about and comment on items on the agenda before the Council make decisions.

Nothing raised

5.Reports from:

Parish Clerk –

The Clerks report is attached to the minutes

Norfolk County Council, Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris

Councillor Kiddle-Morris confirmed there is a new funding scheme for small highways schemes. Bids for funding are made via himself as he has an allocation of funds which he can use across all of his parishes. He confirmed this scheme does not replace the Parish Partnership but is in addition. Bids for schemes such as speed limit signs, gates etc need to be with him by 24th November 2023 in order for them to be considered and, if successful the funds are available in the next financial year.

Breckland Council, Cllr Nigel Wilkin

Councillor Wilkin explained there was a new levelling up and re-generation bill due which should, eventually replace S106 agreements. The levy will be set by local authorities (within reason). He continued by saying that S106 schemes may still be seen in the short term

Chair

Nothing to report

Councillors

Councillor Sisto stated that the painted roundabout at the Co-op/ Costa site was wearing off and traffic is just driving over the top as opposed to round it. It was confirmed this land is privately owned – the Clerk to attempt to discover who the landlord is and see if this can be addressed by them.

Councillor Hicks informed the Council a resident had said that the football tournament held over the previous weekend had meant a great many visiting cars had to park on Tuns Road and this caused the road to become difficult to navigate

6.To approve Bills made, to be made and approve late payments as necessary: To receive financial update and monthly reconciliation for consideration.

See separate payments list

Proposed by Councillor Hicks, seconded by Councillor Curtis and agreed unanimously

7.To receive the minutes of the NRCC meeting held on 5th June 2023

Noted

8.To consider and decide on a grant request from Necton CE VA Primary School

All Councillors confirmed receipt of the grant application and additional information. Councillor Hicks confirmed that she had spoken to the school and whilst the image of the gazebo included in the information was the structure they were considering they are also looking at other versions but these would all be in the same price bracket. The outdoor classroom will be a project that will naturally grow as the school manage to attract more funds (they do not have the financial means to pay for this from their existing budgets) and a great many items will be needed. The Clerk confirmed that the amount set aside for grants and donations in the agreed budget would not cover this grant but funding can be found from budget lines now not required, namely possible election costs. Thereafter Councillor Curtis proposed that the grant application was approved (noting confirmation of purchase of the structure would be required) and for the budget to be amended accordingly. Seconded by Councillor Catlin and agreed unanimously

9.To consider and decide on a possible gift to non-Councillors who worked on the Neighbourhood Plan

The Chair confirmed this was agenda item requested by Councillor Spain and as she was absent from the meeting thereafter Councillor Curtis proposed this item was deferred until the next meeting to enable Councillor Spain to provide more information. Seconded by Chair Bass and agreed unanimously

10.To receive an update from the Queen Elizabeth Memorial Wood working party

Councillor Bateman read out a statement on behalf of the working party and Necton Area Trust.

Saturday the 3rd of June dawned with a clear blue sky, warm sunshine and a gentle breeze. A welcome respite from the recent grey skies and cold winds. This was good news for the official opening of the Queen Elizabeth Memorial Woods. Shortly after 11am local residents, some bringing dogs for their first walk in the new woods started arriving in the approach road. We were pleased to see so many of you attending and to welcome representatives from Norfolk County, Breckland District and Necton Parish Councils. The trustees of the Necton Area Trust and many of the numerous volunteers who helped make this project possible were also present.

George Freeman MP for Mid Norfolk and Minister of State for Science arrived at 11:30am and cut the ribbon to a loud cheer and applause. He delivered a short speech praising the transformation of an abandoned and derelict piece of waste land into an open access green space for the village to enjoy. He also commended the renaming of the "Marl Pit" as the Queen Elizabeth Memorial Wood to honour the life and long reign of our late Queen who sadly passed way last year.

Once through the gates the group walked down the main path with many commenting about the beauty and tranquillity of the space. We all gathered around the newly created wildlife pond for the blessing by the Revd. Stephen Thorp. The dappled sunlight, reflections in the pond and birds chirping overhead made a great setting. He began by saying it was a wonderful space to be in, Continuing, that all religions across the world celebrate nature and the Christian faith is no different, before leading us in a short prayer.

Small groups separated off, walking the various paths and exploring different habitats. It was interesting listening to those who had visited the "Marl Pit" in the past. They knew how neglected and overgrown it had become and marvelled at how it had been transformed over the last 3 ½ years.

Escorted on a circular walk George Freeman was very impressed with the vision that enabled the transformation. Interested in all the details of how the project was delivered especially the use of grants, donations and volunteers he commented big government would have spent vast sums and achieved far less. He is keen to keep in touch on other green projects we will be considering in the

future and has included our project on his web site. We are very grateful to George for his valuable time, enthusiasm and support and to all the councillors, trustees and volunteers who have contributed with gifts of time, skills, equipment, materials and donations.

11.To consider and approve the renewal of the following policies

- **Equality and Diversity**

Proposed by Chair Bass, seconded by Councillor Bateman and agreed unanimously

- **Health and Safety**

Proposed by Councillor Hicks, seconded by Chair Bass and agreed unanimously.

- **SAM II**

Discussions were held to amend the policy to confirm that data can be collected by the Clerk or an authorised Councillor as this would prove useful for the Community Speedwatch. thereafter it was suggested Councillor Bateman should be the authorised Councillor. These changes and authorised Councillor were proposed by Councillor Curtis, seconded by Chair Bass and agreed unanimously.

12.Planning matters – to note new planning applications and discuss.

REFERENCE	3PL/2023/0510/HOU
PROPOSAL	Proposed 2 storey side extension and alterations to the driveway
LOCATION	34 Hale Road
APPLICANT	Mr Sheldrake

No objections

13.To discuss and decide on the action plan content and to decide if this should be used as a working document

The draft action plan was discussed and it was noted this is a list of projects to be considered as ongoing works for the Parish Council to carry out. It was noted that some items would need longer to execute purely due to time and finances. It was noted that existing and proposed new benches need to be added to the list. Thereafter Councillor Bateman proposed the action plan be approved, noting the only action to be taken forward at present was to advertise the Parish Council meetings on the Necton Facebook page (Clerk to undertake each month) and for a template for a village survey to be sent by the Clerk to all Councillors to be considered. Seconded by Councillor Curtis and agreed unanimously.

14.To discuss the tennis court and decide on the following

Councillor Hicks requested the opportunity to speak before any motions were voted on and this was agreed by the Chair. She continued by confirming she was unable to provide a full report due to time restraints but had collected some points she would like to be considered including using the excavated soil onsite to build a form of pump track as this would make the area more multi- functional and reduce the costs of the soil removal. She confirmed that businesses could be approached to ascertain if they would want to pay to have advertising boards on the fencing as this would generate revenue for ongoing maintenance costs. She had discussed fencing with a company who would provide and install the fencing at cost.- again reducing the cost.

She continued by confirming she had started her own petition and was collecting names of residents who would like a tennis court (noting they were not asked if precept monies should be used) and had a similar petition where she was asking children in the village if they would like and use a tennis court and so far this was proving to provide positive responses. She confirmed she had raised over £3,000 herself by fund raising events and Necton Management had pledged £1000. Councillor Hicks thereafter suggested that the PC consider a maximum amount they would commit to the project, noting she would continue to fund raise herself and possibly in the future turn to Vattenfall and take up their offer made at their recent consultation day for a feasibility study to be undertaken to look at joint projects with other groups such as NRCC, the school and Necton Sports and Social Club.

- **To publish the results of the public consultation**

Councillor Bateman proposed the results of the recent consultation with the public be published, seconded by Chair Bass and agreed unanimously.

The results are as follows: 206 votes received.

From the 206 responses the results were as follows:

For the tennis court 85 votes

Against the tennis court 121 votes.

This equates to 59% against and 41% in support

There were 2 others questions on the questionnaire. All of the responses that stated they were against the tennis voted 'no' for these two questions also. Therefore, the following breakdown is taken from those who voted in favour on the tennis court (question 1) - 85 votes

Q2. Would you pay a hire fee of say, £5.00 per hour to use the tennis court –

Yes 57 votes,

No 28 votes

Therefore 67% of those in favour would pay to use the tennis court and 33% would not from those who were in favour of a court.

Q3. Would you be interested in joining a Necton tennis club?

Yes 39 votes

No 46 votes

Therefore 46% of those in favour of a tennis court would be interested in joining a tennis club and 54% would not.

- **If precept funds should be used towards the cost of the tennis court**

Chair Bass proposed that precept funds should not be used for a tennis court and seconded by Councillor Bateman. Thereafter a vote by show of hands provided 4 votes in favour of this motion and 2 votes against- motion carried.

Thereafter the Clerk confirmed that the £5,000 set aside already for this project could no longer be ring fenced for this project as these funds are precept funds and therefore would be released back into the budget for spending elsewhere. The Clerk further confirmed that monies held by way of donations from Councilor Hicks would need to be returned to her as this project is now not a PC project and so funds could not be held.

15.Adjournment for public participation (5 mins)

This provides the opportunity for the public to raise awareness of an issue for discussion at the next Parish Council meeting

Councillor Kiddle-Morris confirmed that as part of the new scheme for small highways projects he could look at additional poles to site the SAM 11- we would need to provide the exact location (What3Words) to confirm ownership of the land

16.To confirm date and time of the next Parish Council Meeting as Monday 10th July 2023 at 7.00pm

Meeting closed at 8.30pm